Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02 ACDA-07 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 OIC-02 CEQ-01 EPA-01 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 /122 W

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9447

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

CONFIDENTIAL STOCKHOLM 0032

PASS TO IAEA VIENNA FOR AMBASSADOR STONE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, IAEA, TECH, PARM, SW

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL BY THE IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MEETING OF SENIOR POLICY MAKERS TO ADVISE AGENCY ON REPROCESSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

REF: STATE 314145

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL, I CALLED ON MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEIF LEIFLAND ON JANUARY 4. I CAREFULLY REVIEWED OUR OBJECTIONS TO THE FEBRUARY 28 MEETING PROPOSED BY EKLUND AND INFORMED LEIFLAND THAT THE US IS URGING EKLUND TO POSTPONE ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCH MEETING INDEFINITELY. I STRESSED THE PROBLEM OF TIMING WHICH SUCH A MEETING WOULD POSE FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. I EMPHASIZED THAT THE US PREFERS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSAL AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IN THE LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP AND BILATERALLY.

- 2. ALTHOUGH LEIFLAND HAD RETURNED FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON TONLY ON JANUARY 3, HE APPEARED TO BE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF EKLUND'S LETTER. HE INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH OUR POINT THAT THE TIMING OF EKLUND'S PROPOSED MEETING WAS NOT APPROPRIATE. WHILE HE MADE NO RESPONSE TO OUR OBJECTION ON THE FORMAT, HE DID ASK WHETHER THE US MIGHT BE READY TO PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION OF THESE SAME ISSUES OF REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSAL AT THE NEXT LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP MEETING TO BE HELD IN MID-MARCH. I RESPONDED THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD CERTAINLY BE BETTER PREPARED FOR A MEETING ON THAT DATE AND IN THAT FORUM THAN THE ONE RAISED IN EKLUND'S LETTER. LEIFLAND INDICATED THAT AN OFFICIAL SWEDISH RESPONSE TO MY REPRESENTATION COULD BE EXPECTED DURING THE WEEK OF IANUARY 10
- 3. COMMENT: IT IS NOT BEYOND THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THE PROPOSED MEETING UNDER IAEA AUSPICES MAY WELL HAVE ORIGINATED WITH SWEDISH INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE SWEDISH POWER UTILITIES AND SEVERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND THE SWEDISH NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY COMPANY WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME A DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSAL UNDER IAEA AUSPICES.
- 4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THE NEW SWEDISH COALITION GOVERNMENT IS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HANDLING, REPROCESSING, AND STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL. THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN IS SHOWN IN A "NUCLEAR POWER CONFIDENTIAL.

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STIPULATIONS BILL" NOW UNDER REVIEW BEFORE PRESENTATION TO PARLIAMENT (SEE STOCKHOLM A-1 OF JAN 3. THE PROPOSED BILL WILL REQUIRE THE NUCLEAR POWER COMPANIES TO (A) PRODUCE A CONTRACT FOR THE REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL AND (B) SHOW HOW AND WHERE REPROCESSED (OR UNREPROCESSED) FUEL MAY BE SAFELY AND FINALLY STORED.. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTER OF ENERGY HAS APPOINTED AN"ENERGY COMMISSION" TO WORK ON, AMONG OTHER PROBLEMS, SWEDISH ENERGY POLICY, SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL HANDLING, PROCESSING AND STORAGE, AND THE DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS (SEE PARAGRAPH 3 OF EKLUND'S DECEMBER 21 LETTER). IN SUM, A DISCUSSION OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL HANDLING, REPROCESSING AND STORAGE PROBLEMS IN THE IAEA WOULD SERVE SWEDISH PURPOSES HANDSOMELY. SOME BENEFITS WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (A) DISCUSSION IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN A HIGHLY RESPECTED UN ORGANIZATION, (B) IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS FROM IAEA MEMBER COUNTRIES, (C) ACQUISITION OF TECHNICAL PAPERS, MEMORANDA AND DATA USEFUL TO THE WORK OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION, AND (D)

MAINTENANCE OF THE SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AS A
PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT ENVIRONMENT, DISARMAMENT,
SECURITY, ETC.
SMITH

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